



## **INTERNEWS NETWORK**

### **QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

*“Developing Civil Society in Armenia through Independent Broadcast Media”*

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Activities Report for January 1 – March 31, 2004

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## OVERVIEW

This is the 14th quarterly report for the Internews Broadcast Media Strengthening Program in Armenia, reflecting activity and achievements between January 1 and March 31, 2004. All activities are on schedule and have been successfully implemented during these past three months.

## LOCAL EVENTS AFFECTING THE MEDIA

In January, President Kocharyan ratified the Mass Media Law. The RA Ministry of Justice, in compliance with stipulations in the Mass Communications Law passed in December of 2003, developed a model for a procedure of accrediting journalists.

On February 5, the Yerevan Press Club, the Journalists Union of Armenia, Internews Armenia and the Committee to Protect Freedom of Expression came forth with suggestions to amend a number of the provisions under this procedure.

On January 20, the RA Court of Appeals for Criminal and Military cases handed down a decision on the murder of Tigran Naghdalian, former Chairman of the Council of Public TV and Radio. The Court of Appeals upheld sentences of Armen Sargsian, John Harutiunian, Felix Arustamian and Gegham Shakhbazian, and reduced the sentence, from seven to five years, of Grigor Petrosian for assisting the investigation.

On January 27, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) passed a resolution requiring Armenia to honor its obligations and commitments. PACE noted that the monitoring procedures would continue until there is evidence that "Armenia has made further substantial progress on the outstanding commitments and notably has proved that it is able to organize the next presidential and parliamentary elections in compliance with international democratic standards."

PACE stated, with regret, that "the vagueness of the law, in force, has resulted in the National Television and Radio Commission being given outright discretionary powers in the awarding of broadcast licenses, in particular in regards to A1+ Television."

On February 6, the National Commission on Television and Radio approved the changes to the Procedure for broadcast licensing in line with the newly adopted amendments to the Television and Radio Law. According to the new rules, broadcast licensing competitions for a given frequency will be announced not two, but six months ahead of the license expiration date. The application deadline has also been extended from 25 to 90 days. The National Commission will determine the winner on the 150th day (previously, the 40th).

On February 27, the Commission imposed an administrative fine on Van Radio and Radio Hay for violating the ban on tobacco advertising in broadcast media, as stipulated by the Advertising Law. Monitoring conducted by the Commission revealed that Radio Hay broadcast tobacco commercials eight times on February 3, and Van Radio did so twice on February 11. Radio Hay and Van Radio have contested the Commission's decision and are preparing to bring suit in the Court of Economics.

On March 5, the Partnership for Open Society coalition held an expanded meeting with more than 30 NGOs in attendance. The participants discussed the draft law, approved by the RA Government, to amend the Freedom of Information Law. Changes to the law

have received broad negative response both in Armenia and abroad, with the Freedom of Information Civic Initiative, "Article 19" Global Campaign for Free Expression and the Open Society Justice Initiative calling on the government to withdraw its amendments.

As a result of this meeting, the participants came up with four recommendations:

1. To withdraw the draft law introducing amendments and additions to the Freedom of Information Law;
2. To ensure implementation of the Freedom of Information Law, passed in September 2003, including the speedy development and adoption of the appropriate sub-legislative acts, and not to make implementation of the law contingent on the need for its further improvement;
3. To make the amendment process open to discussion with representatives of civil society;
4. To offer specific and detailed explanation for any amendments to the law.

On March 23, the Ministry of Justice, Internews Armenia and "Article 19" Global Campaign for Freedom of Expression adopted a joint communiqué as a result of two days of discussions (March 22-23) on amendments to Freedom of Information Law. The sides agreed that the discussion on introducing amendments to the law should not impede implementation of the existing law. "The Ministry of Justice welcomed any proposals that would facilitate the implementation of the existing Freedom of Information Law and will consider them seriously," the communiqué noted. Any amendments to the law would aim to strengthen and clarify the protection of the right to freedom of information as recognized in this law, the Constitution and international agreements.

Other events worthy of mention:

- On January 12, four journalists associated with Internews Armenia received environmental reporting awards from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Yerevan. Two first-place awards went to *Ditak* and *Aniv* programs that are produced by Internews Armenia staff.
- On January 21 and February 27, the Court of Economics turned down the claims of Meltex LTD (A1+) against the National Commission on Television and Radio.

## **PROGRESS ACCORDING TO TARGETS**

Internews is working under USAID Armenia's Strategic Objective 2.1: More Transparent, Accountable and Responsive Governance, specifically pursuing the following Intermediate Results:

### **IR 2.0: Strengthened Independent Media**

#### **IR 2.1: Increased Quality of the News**

#### **IR 2.2: Increased Quantity of the News**

In line with these objectives, Internews has undertaken the following projects:

- Conducted a seminar for 25 accountants from various TV stations, radio stations and news organizations in Armenia.
- Conducted an on-site training session with the journalists and managers from TV station Kentron in Yerevan.

- Produced 12 episodes of the weekly current affairs TV show *Ditak*; 12 episodes of the magazine show *Crossroads*; and 12 episodes of the radio show *Aniv*.
- Conducted a seminar on “Radio Production” for journalists.
- Provided continuing support through the equipment loan-out program.
- Repaired television production equipment for stations throughout the country.

### **IR 2.3: Increased Financial Viability of Media Outlets**

- Furnished technical assistance to partner TV stations.

### **IR 2.4: Improved Media Freedom and Advocacy**

- Continued to provide legal consultation to TV and radio stations.

### **IR 2.5: Improved Informational Circulation**

- Maintained and updated eight websites.
- Published over 50 news items regarding the Armenian media on the [www.Internews.am](http://www.Internews.am) website.
- Published 120 national informational pieces on <http://home.media.am> which serves as a local broadcast media news source.

## **ACTIVITY IN DETAIL**

### **IR 2.1: Increased Quality of News**

### **IR 2.2: Increased Quantity of News**

#### **[1.1] TRAINING FOR A STRENGTHENED INDEPENDENT MEDIA**

- A) NAME OF COURSE: Media Accounting Principles  
 B) CONDUCTED: February 4-6, 2004, Yerevan  
 C) CONSULTANTS: Aram Mesropyan, Arthur Manukyan, Andranik Muradyan  
 D) PARTICIPANTS: 25 trainees (17 female) from 17 TV stations, two radio stations and three media organizations

Comments: The participants examined the recent changes in the Armenian Tax Code and their impact on the broadcast media. Each of the participants also received the latest edition of the Tax Code.

- A) NAME OF COURSE: Audio & Video Field Production Workshop  
 B) CONDUCTED: February 10-21, 2004, Yerevan  
 C) CONSULTANTS: Augusto Gomez, William Canter (USA)  
 D) PARTICIPANTS: 13 trainees (two female) from 10 TV stations plus eight observers.

Comments: This was the first time that Internews conducted training on professional sound recording, and its introduction of the two-men ENG [Electronic News Gathering] production style was also a first-time occasion. The training sought to improve the state of television audio, an acknowledged weak spot in Armenia, and was well received by the participants.

It should also be noted that Canter and Gomez have worked together as an ENG team for more than 10 years. Gomez arrived in Armenia with a complete array of state-of-the-art field and studio audio equipment enabling a true hands-on approach. Participants were able to fully comprehend, and appreciate, the difference between the equipment they have access to and that presented by Gomez. Both trainers focused on the increased and enhanced use of Natural Sound tracks for projects produced and edited during the seminar, devoting additional time to a special seminar on location lighting techniques and studio lighting exercises and advanced camera training by Canter. As a highlight of the seminar, the participants produced a National Assembly Press Event using the style of coverage that would not have been possible without team ENG production techniques and separate sound gathering ability as presented in the workshop.

A) NAME OF COURSE: New TV Program Start-Up  
B) CONDUCTED: March 1-5, 2004, Yerevan, Shoghakat TV  
C) CONSULTANTS: Harutyun Mansuryan and Levon Kalantar (Internews)  
D) PARTICIPANTS: Five station employees involved in new program productions.

A) NAME OF COURSE: Future of Armenian Media  
B) CONDUCTED: January 17-18, 2004, Yerevan, Shoghakat TV  
C) CONSULTANTS: David Hovhannesian and Armenian based consulting team  
D) PARTICIPANTS: 16 representatives of local media and professional associations.

Comments: In January, Internews organized workshops, conducted over a period of three days, with media managers and experts to discuss the long-term media development. Together with David Hovhannesian, acting as moderator of this workshop, participants discussed problems and concerns in the media and tried to come up with steps and remedies necessary for a positive change. One notable exchange dealt with the importance of self-regulation in the media and the creation of a possible regulatory body as a first step. These ideas served as the basis for a paper with recommendations for the next 15 years of Armenia media. The participants also reiterated the importance of professional training and an incentive mechanism for increasing the quality of the media and TV production.

## **[1.2] OTHER TRAINING EVENTS**

### **[1.2.1] On-Site Training Courses**

A) NAME OF COURSE: News Production  
B) CONDUCTED: January 26-30, 2004, Yerevan, Kentron TV  
C) CONSULTANTS: Harutyun Mansuryan and Levon Kalantar (Internews)  
D) PARTICIPANTS: 20 station trainees

### **[1.2.2] In-House Consultancies**

During this quarter, Internews Armenia conducted a series of individual training events, overseen by staff media trainer Lilik Stepanyan, with students of journalism departments at various universities. One particular training focused on the Special Report television production style. Students from Yerevan State Pedagogical University, Armenian-

Russian (Slavonic) State University, Yerevan State University and Yerevan Institute of Theatre participated in the training, and some of the stories they produced aired on Internews' *Just So Stories* program.

## **JOURNALISM COMPETITIONS**

### **IR 2.1: Increased Quality of News**

### **IR 2.2: Increased Quantity of News**

#### **Underwrote a competition to support the production of films/videos covering the problems of marginalized groups in Armenia.**

Announced in March, this "Lend a Hand" competition seeks to showcase problems of marginalized groups such as war veterans, the disabled, orphans, refugees, the homeless, "inter-ethnic" families, families of soldiers who had died while in non-conflict situations etc. In announcing the competition, Internews invited interested studios and TV companies legally registered in Armenia to come up with creative approaches to this topic. Project implementation is supported by USAID in the amount equivalent of \$5,000 maximum per project.

#### **Announced a competition for the production of PSA's.**

Also launched in March with the support of USAID, this competition aims to promote the concept of social campaigns addressing issues of public significance. Possible topics are migration, socially vulnerable groups, public health, education, culture and corruption, but each applicant is free to suggest a topic, explaining its relevance and significance. The production budget of any suggested project, which is to consist of a minimum of five PSA's, will not exceed the equivalent of \$3,000. Again, the announcement encouraged unique approaches in presenting relevant information and ideas to the viewing public of Armenia. Broadcasting companies, which are licensed in the Republic of Armenia, can take part in the competition separately or together with production studios. All applicants were to substantiate an agreement for free airtime of their projects.

## **EQUIPMENT REPAIRS, CONSULTANCIES & LOAN OUT**

### **IR 3.1: Increased Quantity of News**

### **IR 3.2: Increased Financial Viability of Media Outlets**

Internews' equipment was used to produce television programs and projects as follows:

<u>Cameras:</u>	13 organizations/journalists used Internews' cameras 91 times
<u>Editing Suites:</u>	Three organizations/journalists used Internews' editing suites 23 times for a total of 102 hours of post production
<u>Internet:</u>	One organization used Internews' Internet computer seven times
<u>Dubbing:</u>	12 organizations/journalists used Internews' dubbing equipment 49 times for 34 total hours of production

Internews continues to provide students from various schools of camera operation and filmmaking at Armenian institutions of higher learning with an opportunity to produce videos and films.

## **PROGRAM ACQUISITION AND DISTRIBUTION**

### **IR 2.3: Increased Financial Sustainability of Media Outlets**

During this reporting period, Internews dubbed and distributed programs produced by different studios and organizations to the following TV stations:

Station	Location
Hrazdan TV	Hrazdan
Hachin	Nor Hachin
Zangak	Martuni
Last	Goris
Shant	Yerevan
Anna TV	Artashat
Ankyun +3	Alaverdi
Kamut	Noyemberyan
Sosi	Kapan
Sisian Yev Menk	Sisian
ALT TV	Armavir
Kyavar	Gavar
Tashirk	Tashir
Interkap	Vanadzor
Ashtarak TV	Ashtarak
Lusalik	Charentsavan
Fortuna TV	Stepanavan
Abovyan TV	Abovian
Tsayg	Gyumri

## **PARTICIPATORY CO-PRODUCTION**

### **IR 2.1: Increased Quality of News**

### **IR 2.2: Increased Quantity of News**

### **IR 2.3: Increased Financial Sustainability of Media Outlets**

**New Production** - In March, Internews launched pre-production operations for the new television series *Banali* (The Key). *Banali* will be a series of programs profiling small businesses and highlighting entrepreneurial success stories in Armenia. Internews' Broadcast Design & Art Department has produced the graphic design and the on-air look of the show, while Internews' producers continue to brainstorm story ideas, plan for the interviews, and draft scripts. Internews plans to produce the entire series and then present it to stations as a complete package including collateral promotional devices. Such a project would be first of its kind in Armenian broadcasting.

#### *Perekrestok (Crossroads)*

Internews produced and distributed 12 episodes of the weekly Trans-Caucasus news exchange program *Perekrestok (Crossroads)* in cooperation with Internews offices in Georgia and Azerbaijan. The following stations broadcast *Perekrestok* in Armenia:

Station	Location
Hrazdan TV	Hrazdan
ALT TV	Armavir
Hachin	Nor Hachin
Kyavar	Gavar
Zangak	Martuni
Tashirk	Tashir
Last	Goris
Interkap	Vanadzor
Shant	Gyumri
Shant	Yerevan
Anna TV	Artashat
Armine	Sevan
Lusalik	Charentsavan
Ankyun +3	Alaverdi
Fortuna TV	Stepanavan
Kamut	Noyemberyan
Lanj	Abovian
Dzagedzor	Kapan

Program themes were as follows:

- A 9-year-old Artist – Escaping the glum reality to the world of harmony through the use of color.
- Dzoraget Village – A village without fields and pastures because of a highway running near the village.
- The Lottery Business – Effects of legislative changes on the lottery enterprise.
- Hovhannes Poghosyan – Living in the *seventh sky*, or The Life of a TV Tower Engineer.
- Akner – A village with more than its share of theater actors.
- The Optimization of Medical Institutions – An in-depth look at the medical system in Armenia.
- Strange Bibliophile – A profile of a Stepanavan resident who is infatuated with the written word.
- Jrashen Village – The focus is on Mother Earth and ecology.
- Sberbank (the Savings Bank) – A look at the Sberbank deposits and its general business practices.
- Narine Jilavyan – A visit with a macramé artist whose art is inspired by the images of Armenian churches.
- Izdi Village Alagyaz – A look at non-Armenian regional folk art.
- The Ombudsman Institute – A look at the office of the Ombudsman as a new approach to working with the public.

Internews produced and broadcast 12 episodes of the half-hour analytical weekly program *Ditak*. Journalists and camera operators from five TV stations, as well as freelancers, participated in the production of this show. In addition to a reprise of several popular segments on the January 11 show, the topics covered in this period included:



- 2004, the UN Perspective – The UN had proclaimed 2004 as the Year of Rice and, also, of the bilateral focus on fighting slavery. The program featured a spokesperson from the UN department of public relations.
- Armenia: Post South Caucasus Elections – Recent events in Georgia imply a situation that represents less than parity in Armenia vis-à-vis pro-Western policy in the Caucasus region. Experts suggest that Armenia may encounter obstacles in its efforts to improve the international distribution of jobs, solve the Karabakh issue, and secure foreign direct investments and the integration of regional programs such as Baku-Jeyhan and TRASEKA. The South Caucasus can no longer present a tri-lateral approach or security system, with Armenia being increasingly blamed for its continuing close relations with Russia. Meanwhile, the Armenian foreign minister considers this model of foreign policy to be the best solution for such a diverse region citing the Turkey-Azerbaijan-Georgia and Russia-Iran synergies.
- Emergency Situations – After the few powerful earthquakes of January and February, there were discussions regarding the capacity of the South Caucasus and Central Asian countries to face emergency situations.
- Service Clubs – There are some 3,500 NGOs registered in Armenia, but civic initiatives and movements are not limited to non-governmental organizations. *Ditak* investigated service clubs that provide a range of services to the community.
- Traffic – A look at the issues related to the draft Public Transport and Traffic Law and the phenomenal increase of vehicles on streets of Yerevan.
- A Native Language – *Ditak* hosted the acting head of the Governmental Inspection of Language to discuss the use of and changes in the Armenian language.
- Increase in Economy – In 2003, Armenia's GDP increased by 13.9 percent. In discussing this statistic, the program featured a number of opinions, including the work of the Lincy Foundation.
- Army and Education – The program discussed the draft National Military Service Law. Known as "a proposed law for drafting graduate students into the army," it stipulates a one-time deferment in order to continue education. A number of protest actions against the law have taken place, and, as a result, the government had recalled the draft legislation.
- HIV/AIDS – The edition covered the ways of fighting HIV/AIDS, including a segment on sex education in Armenia.
- The Possibility of War – Hayk Demoyan is one of the lawyers working on the case involving the murder of an Armenian officer training in Budapest. Allegedly, he was killed by an Azeri.
- The Theatre – Leaders of a theater community discussed their concerns and visions for the future.

The following stations broadcast *Ditak* on the weekly basis:

Station	Location
Hrazdan TV	Hrazdan
ALT-TV	Armavir
Hachin TV	Nor Hachin
Kyavar	Gavar
Zangak	Martuni
Tashirk	Tashir
Last	Goris
Interkap	Vanadzor
Lori	Vanadzor
Shant	Yerevan
Anna	Artashat
Armine	Sevan
Lusalik	Charentsavan
Ankyun + 3	Alaverdi
Kamut	Noyemberyan
Abovian	Abovian
Sisian Yev Menk	Sisian
Fortuna 6+6	Stepanavan
Dzagedzor TV	Kapan
Tsayg TV	Gyumri

### *Aniv (The Wheel)*

This quarter, Internews-affiliated Yerevan freelancers, working with correspondents from regional radio stations in Vanadzor and Gyumri, produced 12 episodes of *Aniv*.

- New Year's TV Broadcasts – New Year TV programs are important benchmarks for a TV company: if you get good ratings on New Year's Eve, you have a good chance of retaining that audience and increasing your advertising revenues in the coming year.
- Changes in the Tax Code – With the recent changes in the Tax Code, experts believe it would be possible to avoid frequent changes in the future if the state taxed “gray” income of privileged businessmen and created equal conditions for entrepreneurs.
- Fighting Corruption – In January 2004, the government adopted a strategic plan for fighting corruption, which calls on ordinary citizens to play an integral role.
- Science – The average salary of a scientist in Armenia is 16,000 dram, while the state budget provides less than 1 percent for the development of science in the country. Is this the real value of science? Is it feasible to provide more resources for its support?
- The Housing Problem – Perhaps 50 percent of the Armenian population requires housing, but cannot afford it at the current market prices. Furthermore, with approximately 500 “publicly owned” buildings in need of repair in Armenia, residents cannot move into their new apartments nor receive reimbursement.
- Higher Education – During the upcoming spring session, the National Assembly will discuss the new Higher Education Law that proposes new activities and status

for institutions of higher learning. The new law may provoke a conflict of interest between private and state institutions.

- Corruption: Public Health – The amount of “gray” money in the public health system is several times higher than the state budget appropriations. *Aniv* examined the scope of corruption in the public health industry as requested by an order of the President. In the first of a series of programs on Corruption in Armenia, *Aniv* looked at the measures taken against corruption.
- Corruption: Judicial System – What should be done in order to have an independent judicial system: good laws, decisive authorities and a society that fights to protect their rights? This edition of *Aniv* contained specific examples concerning corruption by the sitting judges that has never been punished.
- Corruption: Local Authorities – Very often local authorities do not even try to solve the problems of their community. People perceive the head of the community as a government’s protégé who lives at the expense of the population and serves the interest of higher ranking government officials. Will decentralization work for or against the people? Will the ability to work more autonomously enable regional authorities to abuse the system or help their constituency?
- Corruption: The Economy – The returns on corruption increase within the areas that bring the most profit. The Armenian business world provides a good case study. Most violations in the business world are connected to privatization.
- Political Passions in Spring – The spring season has brought new passions in the realm of politics, with the pro-governmental forces, the opposition, the intelligentsia, and the entrepreneurs all claiming to advocate on behalf of ordinary people. Who will the people choose to follow?
- Culture – 34 theaters and museums were renovated with the funds of the Lincy Foundation. But what did the people of Armenia get as a result, and how well were the funds utilized?

### *Aniv Radio Investigations*

The production team of *Aniv* launched a new show – *Aniv Radio Investigations*. In March, two parts of the first program on Consumers Rights were produced. Another edition on the topic of Adoption is currently in production. All of the *Aniv* radio productions and programs can be listened to and/or downloaded on the Internews website: <http://home.internews.am/aniv/2002.htm>.

The following radio stations broadcast *Aniv* on the weekly basis:

Station	Location
Ardzagank	Yerevan
Shant	Gyumri
Interkap	Vanadzor

### *Khndir (Just So Stories)*

The *Khndir* production team finished post-production on the first two parts of the Ecology of the Khosrov Forest feature. The principle photography for the piece covering the Problem of Prostitution has been completed as well. Also, the production team started location shooting for the piece on the Price of Death.

## LEGAL SUPPORT

### IR 2.4: Improved Media Freedom and Advocacy

#### **[1] Media Law**

Internews has completed the work on The Legal Guide 2003. The handbook is not only a reflection of changes and amendments to media-related legislation, but also a collection of all relevant normative acts that journalists and broadcasting organizations are likely to encounter in their work. Accordingly, the Current Legislation section on the Internews website has been updated to reflect the recent changes. The website now also has information on the current composition of the National Commission on Television and Radio, as well as the lists of broadcasting organizations that have recently acquired licenses.

Regarding joint efforts by the Council of Europe and the OSCE on suggestions to improve the RA Electoral Code, Internews attorneys prepared an analysis and recommendation on improving media-related election laws, namely those related to accreditation rules, as well as certain rules and procedures aimed at ensuring equality and fairness of air time allocation for political advertising.

Internews has further completed registration papers for the Association of Broadcasters and submitted them to Khachik Danielyan, the association's president. This will launch the legal registration process for this group of national radio and television professionals.

Internews lawyers have provided consultations to an Ankyun Plus 3 journalist on the Freedom of Information Law; a representative of Tospa Radio on the Mass Information Law; and a representative of A1+ regarding the Advertising Law.

Internews lawyers also participated in a meeting at the Journalist's House to discuss the new accreditation procedures. They prepared an analysis of the government's decision on the Model Accreditation Procedure and submitted it to the Ministry of Justice. The procedure had originally contained many restrictive provisions that were substantially improved due to the efforts of Internews and other like-minded NGOs.

In a different initiative, Internews has begun working on the project for the Approximation of Information Legislation of South Caucasus Countries with European Union and Council of Europe standards. Work has also been started on IPR checking points, which are to be addressed in the analysis and subsequent recommendations.

Internews lawyers lead several sessions during the seminar for cameramen and sound engineers, presenting the legal aspects related to the work of Electronic News Gathering and relevant provisions from the new Mass Information Law.

Internews lawyers participated in the seminar on the "Mass Media Legislation in Armenia" presented to representatives of the local media community, NGO leaders, local and regional authorities by the "Asparez" Journalists' Club in Gyumri, as a part of their "Progress through Education" project. The event was followed by a live talk show on Tsayg TV covering and presenting the problems of media-related legislation.

Internews lawyers participated in a seminar organized by CSDU, MLI and FOI Center on the implementation of the Freedom of Information Law. Additionally, staff attorneys took part in the discussions on the amendments to the Freedom of Information Law within the initiative of "Partnership for Open Society."

Finally, Internews lawyers provided legal consultations to Van Radio regarding sanctions imposed on the station by the National Commission on Television and Radio for the alleged violation of the Advertising Law. They also wrote an article on this issue for the journal "Law and the Practice."

## **INTERNET CLEARINGHOUSE**

### **IR 2.5: Improved Circulation of Information**

Internews continues to maintain and update its websites on a daily basis, including links to primary sources and sites from related Internews pages. At this time, 80 percent of the stations in the country are able to access information available on Internews' website for use in their news production.

Internews has updated its website with over 50 news blocks containing Armenian media-related information. Internews also posted information on different news programs (*Ditak*, *Perekrestok* and *Aniv*) on its site as well as the <http://media.am> regional news exchange site.

Internews has further launched <http://billboard.media.am/> – a new website for members of the media and broadcast industry. This site allows visitors to post job announcements, search for a job, sell or purchase video, audio, photo and computer equipment, etc.

## **Participation in Workshops, Conferences and Round Table Meetings**

- In January, producer Armen Sargsyan traveled to Israel on a trip, organized by the Yerevan Press Club, to take part in a seminar on conflict resolution and discussion.
- In February, producer Armen Sargsyan participated in the seminar on minorities, organized by Media Diversity.
- In February, financial manager Alexander Ispiryan and accountant Lusine Aleksanyan participated in the seminar on changes in the tax legislation, organized by the Business Support Center.
- In February, radio lawyer David Sandukchan participated in the GIPI training and coordination meeting in Istanbul.
- In March, production manager Harutyun Mansuryan participated in the discussion on covering issues related to minorities, organized by Media Diversity.
- In March, training coordinator David Aslanyan visited the media training center in Nizhniy Novgorod.